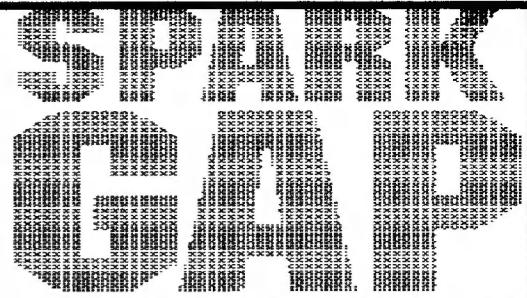


RIDSTATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MARC

"Ham Radio News from Johnson County, Indiana"



JUNE 1993

UPGRADES FROM MAY TESTING

Stephen Chandler	Indianapolis	NC Tech
David Fredericks	New Castle	Tech
Steven Grubor	Mooresville	Tech
Harold Hartwell	Butlerville	Tech
Thomas Huser	Indianapolis	NC Tech
Jewel Judkins	Indianapolis	Novice
Vernie Parton	Whiteland	Tech
Richard Phelps	Fountaintown	NC Tech
Carlos Ramirez-Rios	Greenwood	NC Tech
Jamie Smith	New Castle	NC Tech
John Westerman	Holton	NC Tech

NEW! CLUB CALL SIGNS

The FCC in a recent news release has announced that it has amended its rules to provide for volunteer organizations to administer a system designed to provide special call signs to club and military recreation stations.

Organizations selected to be Call Sign Administrators must enter into an agreement with the FCC. They must exist for the sole purpose of furthering the amateur service, must agree to accept and process all properly-completed application forms from the trustees of club stations, and must have a membership of at least 1 percent of total amateurs licensed by the FCC (now more than 600,000). They can not charge a fee or accept reimbursement for services provided.

Each administrator will be assigned initially a block of call signs having a two-letter prefix from the

NA-NZ "by three" series. A block might include NA1AAA THROUGH NA0ZZZ. There are 26 possible blocks. Each administrator must issue public announcements detailing the policies and procedures of its call-sign assignment system.

NEW! NOVICE EXAM RULES

The FCC has recently released their Report on new Novice examinations. The changes which take effect on July 1, 1993 are:

1. Three (3) General (or higher) class licensed Volunteer examiners will be able to administer Novice and Technician license examinations (Elements 1A, 2, and 3A) once they are accredited by a VEC.
2. All license examinations, including Novice, must be publicly announced (date, time and location) before they can be administered.
3. A CSCE must be issued to an examinee who scores a passing grade on an exam element, including Novice elements.
4. Effective July 1, 1993, the Form 610 will no longer be issued for element credit. 610 forms for element credit dated earlier will be good for 365 days.
5. VE teams may be reimbursed for their expenses on Novice exams as they have been on higher licenses.

Club Events For June

- June 5 Equestrian Event (Camp Atterbury)
June 13 Masonic Home Event
June 19 Club Meeting and Testing
June 26-27 FIELD DAY (Camp Atterbury)



HORSE SHOW

"Horse one ninety-nine is on the course. NV9K." "Horse one ninety-eight clears jump seven. WB9IOS."

"Horse one ninety-six, two balks, clears jump thirteen, WD9HCL." And so it went for eight straight hours. One beautiful horse after another. The place was the Hoosier Horse Park at Camp Atterbury. The event was the Indiana Combined Training Association. The play by play was coming from amateur radio operators representing four central Indiana counties.

For the past five years the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club has provided a communications network around the half-mile cross country event. Over twenty radio operators manned the 20 jump course. Their mission was to assist the course marshalls with reliable welfare communications. As each horse cleared the jumps, their position and jump status was relayed to the net control near the starting line. A direct link was maintained with a Princess Lakes ambulance that was stationed nearby in case of emergencies.

Club activities director Jack Parker, NT9J, organized the radio net. Roy Barnes, N9PFZ, served as net control for the day-long event. Morning clouds and cool temperatures gave way to slightly warmer afternoon temps and a perfect day for working this colorful event.

The following hams are to be commended for a job well done: Mac McCarty NV9K, Bob Cammack N9IMP, Bill Brinkmann KA9ZMU, Bob Doles WB9AYB, Joe Vergara KA9ZPA, Bob DeSpain WB5VZT, Vernon Gill KB9QBO, Del Middleton K9ZON, and Ron Gaertner WB9NVM. Special thanks to our friends from Hendricks and Bartholomew counties for their assistance: Jay Wright N9IMT, Justin White KB9HEQ, Dale White KB9GMS, Bert White WD4HCL, Gene White WD4HCM, Jim Smith WV9W, Brian Smith WW9A, Marion Winterberg WD9HTN, Lois Winterberg KA9IOS, Dennis Marietta N9LPG, and Bill Manning K9SWU.

THE MASONIC HOME EVENT

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club members provided communications for the annual Indiana Masonic Home Festival on June 13, 1993. This event takes place in early June at the Home in Franklin.

The net, with WB9YIG as net control, was conducted on 146.550 MHZ. Communications assistance was provided to the festival officials to park several hundred cars, transport elderly attendees from parking to activity areas, supply food and drink to a multitude of volunteers and to organize and direct a parade!

The helping Hams and their assignments were: KB9BGS Sheriff's squad mobile, KA9ZMU Main entrance, KF9LQ In the parking lots, N9NZI On the shuttle bus, KB9HSE On the food truck, WA9RDF At the exit gate and helping at the entrance, and WB9AYB Motor scooter go-fer.

The Masons repeatedly expressed thanks for our assistance. WB9AYB thanked those who helped in such a professional and dedicated way to make it a pleasant and successful day for all. KB9BGS stated that now one member of the Marion County Sheriff's Department knows what Hams can do!

An abundance of complimentary food was supplied the Hams. (Don't know if anybody was served a HAM SANDWICH!) KA9ZMU installed a deer warning whistle on WB9AYB'S scooter. Bob was impressed with how well it worked. He didn't hit a single deer all day! In fact he didn't even see one!

-WB9AYB

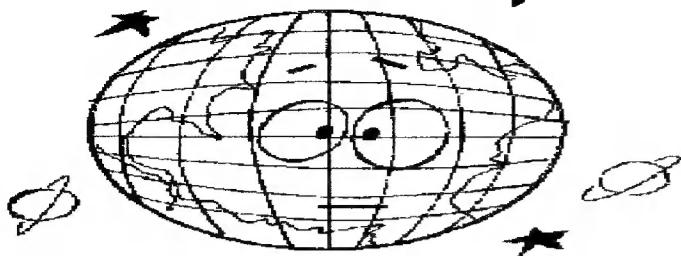


THE PARTON STORY

Not since Dolly, has there been so much activity in the Parton family! First Vernie N9PUA, goes into the hospital for by-pass surgery, then he comes home, then he goes back to the hospital for an infection and has to have some of the surgery re-done. And all this time his XYL Marilyn has been staying with him, unable to use her newly acquired radio call sign (N9TUK)! Then on top of all this Vernies son Dennis KB9HPQ, finds out his XYL Sarah, is delivering him a new son! The baby and mother are doing fine and will probably be home by the time you receive this. The new baby's name is Harrison Blake and he weighed in at a little more than 6 pounds.

Marilyn probably thinks the new baby will be talking before she ever uses her new call sign! We wish the very best for the entire Parton clan and hope all your lives will return to normal chaos real soon!

MY WORLD



By WB5VZT

Mike AA9FP, called into a telephone BBS and downloaded the new version of MSYS. Of course it was a long program and took a couple of hours to download. Now everyone has updated their system, thanks to Mike. Those updating were Mike-AA9FP, Bill-KA9ZMU, Joe-KA9ZPA, and Bob-WB5VZT.

The new version allows uploading binary files using the YAPP protocol. Mike and Bob downloaded/uploaded a 35 KB file with no problems. The transmissions are in a compressed mode. The YAPP program is ready for download on Joe's BBS KA9APZ-1, Bob's BBS WB5VZT-1, and Mike's BBS AA9FP-1. There are numerous binary files on all of the above BBS for downloading. Call Mike if you have any questions. Yes, they can be downloaded with a dumb terminal!

The 6 meter network is progressing very well. Emmett KD4JSL said the crystals and Diamond antennas are on order and should be in by the end of the month. The 50 amp power supplies are ready to be installed. We are having trouble finding 300 feet of hardline for the Ky gateway. Emmett also said there will be a 6m/2m gateway at Beattyville near Harlon Ky. (gateway to southern states). Brian, WW9A is putting up the mounting hardware for a Ringo 6 on his tower. We decided that since he is so close, and to save a little money, we would use a Ringo 6 at Columbus. Will explain more as it develops.

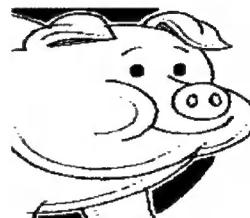
Bill KA9ZMU, installed a Cushcraft R7 Vertical at the EOC for use on the low bands. He tried it out and made a contact in Maine on the Kenwood TS-140s.

We need a low cost computer for KA9ZPA's station. The 6 meter network is progressing nicely. The antenna and TNC for WW9A were purchased and should be installed soon. We are still waiting on the Diamond 6 meter antenna for Seymour.

Lots of local equipment has been damaged by lightning recently. It's that time of year for severe weather, so inspect your grounding system. The only sure way to protect your radios is to disconnect the antenna coax and the ac power. If you have a modem you should also disconnect your telephone line to the computer.

Last week Johnson County came very close to activating an emergency disaster net. Following two days of threatening thunderstorms several homes and buildings were damaged or destroyed by microburst winds in northern Johnson County.

With this in mind, ask yourself as an amateur radio operator, "Am I prepared to bring up and operate an emergency disaster net?" Whether the answer is yes or no, we all have a lot to learn and need some practice. Be alert and prepared!



HAM ROOTS

Although the origin of the word "ham" is obscure, every ham has his or her own pet theory. One holds that early Amateurs were called hams because they liked to "perform" on the air, as in "hamming it up." Another theory proposes that the name came from the "ham-fisted" way some Amateurs handled their code keys. The easiest opinion to accept is that "hams" is a criticism of "Ams," as in Amateurs. And one of the most exotic holds that "ham" is an acronym, the call sign H. A. M. from the initials of three college students who were among the first Radio Amateurs. Whatever the origin, it's been around a long time and we're stuck with it!



Vernie Parton and family wish to express our appreciation for the lovely planter sent by the radio club during Vernie's recent hospital stay. Also, the many cards, visitors, and phone calls helped to brighten our day!



HAVE YOU HEARD THIS?

In the beginning was the plan
And then came the assumptions
And the assumptions were without form
And the plan was completely without substance
And darkness was on the faces of the workers
And they spake unto their Group Leaders saying:
It is a crock, and it stinketh.

And the Group Leaders went to their Managers,
and sayeth: It is a pail of dung, and none may
abide the odour thereof.

And the Managers went unto their Senior Managers,
and sayeth unto them: It is a container of
excrement, and it is very strong, such that none
here may abide by it.

And the Senior Managers went unto their Director,
and sayeth unto him: It is a vessel of
fertilizer, and none may abide its strength.

And the Directors went unto their Vice-President,
and sayeth unto him: It contains that which aids
plant growth, and it is very strong.

And the Vice-President went to the Senior
Vice-President, and sayeth unto him: It promoteth
growth, and is very powerful.

And the senior Vice-President went to the
President and sayeth unto him: This powerful
new plan will actively promote the growth and the
efficiency of the Company, and this area in
particular.

And the President looked upon the plan, and saw
that it was good.

And the plan became Company Policy!

Anthony's Law of Force: Don't force it; get a
larger hammer!

America: the only country making square
wheels for shopping carts!

A man took his city friend on his first hunting trip. They separated and a few minutes later he heard gunshots. Racing back he saw his friend holding another man at gunpoint. The friend said "you leave that deer alone. I shot it and it's mine!" The frightened man said, "OK, if you say so. But can I at least have my saddle back?"

Circus manager to human cannonball: "You can't quit! Where will I ever find another man of your calibre?"

A man, worried because his daughter kept waking up ill in the night, consulted a friend. "Well, it could be a lot of things, the friend said. "Let's take it from the top. Does she drink milk at bedtime?" "Yes, she does. Every night" "There's your problem. You see, she goes to sleep and tosses from side to side, milk turns into cheese, cheese turns to butter, butter turns to fat, fat turns to sugar, sugar turns to alcohol and before you know it, the poor kid wakes up with a hangover!"

Every New Year we sit down with the children and try to decide if we should start a family.

I have a friend who keeps track of the latest fads. He tells me this year boomerangs are coming back.

She had a face lift, a tummy lift, and a fanny lift---now she's two feet off the ground.

There is always free cheese in a mousetrap.

I try to take one day at a time, but sometimes several days attack me at once.

If at first you don't succeed, well, so much for skydiving!

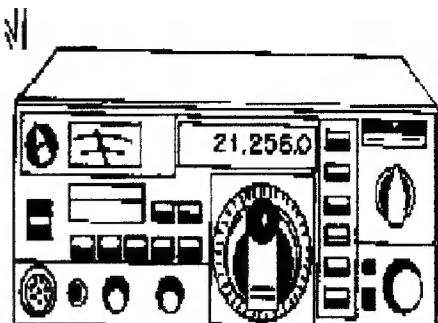
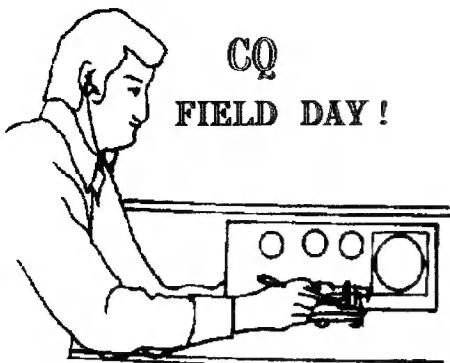
"What did you do last weekend?" "I Spent all day Sunday dropping hooks in the water." "Fishing eh?" "No, golfing!"

Two women ordered iced tea in a restaurant. One of them said, "And please, can you make sure that the glass is clean?" The waiter returned and said, "Here are your drinks, ladies. Now, which of you ordered the clean glass?"

The Gilroy garlic diet: Eat anything but also eat a pound of garlic. You won't lose any weight but no one will get close enough to notice!

REPORT FROM THE EOC

Bill, KA9ZMU reports that his new assistant will be Vernon Gill N9QBO. Also they are working on the new I. D. cards for RACES.



FIELD DAY 1993

Next week the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club will participate in it's eighth annual Field Day. This is an excellent opportunity for every ham radio operator to learn the finer skills of operating a HF rig and preparing for an emergency operation. The June 19th meeting will be dedicated to finalizing plans for Field Day 1993. Everyone from Novice to Extra will have the opportunity of operating a HF rig using Extra class license privileges.

Saturday June 26th we will begin setting up our field operation at 8:00 AM. At noon we will begin transmitting from the Johnson County Recreation Center's meeting room. Our objective during the 24 hour exercise will be to contact as many hams throughout North America and Canada as possible. We will use a 5 KW generator to operate all of our lights and equipment. Anyone with a solar powered radio or battery-powered equipment is invited to bring it along. Field Day is a competition as well as a "trial run" for emergency communication skills used during disaster situations.

We will be operating several radio stations at the same time, including phone and CW on the HF bands. We'll also have a packet station, a 2 meter station, and a Novice station.

J. R. Osborne, KB9HSE, is this year's Field Day Coordinator. Contact him if you have any equipment like radios, coax, or antennas that can be used. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the June meeting to register for operating assignments. This is going to be an exciting weekend of food, fun, and ham radio that you'll never forget!

KB9HSE, coordinator for Field Day reports that he will be asking for rigs, cable, etc., to be used for the Field Day operation. Plan to volunteer both your equipment and YOUR TIME to the cause this saturday at the club meeting! J. R. has assigned the task of taking care of the food to Pat, W9PSD and Randy, KC9LC. Dave, KA9OOH has volunteered to furnish the ham for the main course. We will also need to have covered dishes brought in to complete the annual Field Day Feast.

Plan to attend and why not bring your family to this evening of fun? We'll find plenty of things for you to do!

One of our annual problems seems to be to get hams to volunteer to operate, especially through the night! If you have any suggestions for any incentives to get operators please mention it at the meeting this saturday. Field Day is supposed to be both fun and serious contesting! Help us make it work! We'll see you there!

NEW ! BONUS POINTS FOR FIELD DAY

An additional 100 bonus points can be earned by qualified hams in Field Day for completing at least ten VHF/UHF QSOs (excluding packet contacts). Also a "free" VHF/UHF transmitter has been added for Class A and Class B stations. This station can operate the entire Field Day period, just like the "free" packet and satellite transmitters. You can find this in item 9 under "bonus points" in the official Field Day Rules in May QST. It's an ideal station for Technicians to operate since they have full privileges on these bands!



ATV

After the presentation on ATV by Don Miller, N9NTP at our last meeting some of our club members might be considering getting into this completely different kind of ham radio! As a follow-up to this presentation a bit of new information might be useful.

To construct an ATV project the basic components are: antenna, transmission lines (hard line or at least 9913 cable), transceiver, pre-amp (antenna mounted), amplifier, monitor (or TV), microphone, and camera. There are also many optional accessories to aid in reception and transmission. The cost of the basic components (not including monitor and camera) will run about \$1000. Don't count on getting used ATV equipment because there is not much available.

Probably the most important part of the basic package is the antenna system and transmission lines. The antenna should be at a good height and completely free of obstructions such as trees, buildings, etc. The best equipment in the world always depends on the antenna reception and transmission capabilities!

Although most ATV stations use a camera, a video tape recorder can be used instead. There are some older black and white cameras still to be had at a good price, but most prefer to have a good color camera. Many of the video cameras on the market are less expensive now that they have become so popular.

One of the most confusing things about ATV is the antenna systems used. For some reason many in this hobby seem to think they need two antennas (one horizontal and one vertical.) The repeater in Indianapolis is vertical but most hams prefer a horizontal antenna for shack to shack contacts. The reason for this is that the horizontal antenna has less interference from regular 440 repeaters. Don't let this

worry you because most hams you are in contact with will understand and change to your type of antenna. So, if you want to use the repeater, start with a vertical antenna. You can always add a horizontal one later.

If you decide to get into this exciting part of our hobby, try to find someone already doing ATV for help and advice. There is an excellent article about ATV in the May 93 QST which will be continued into the June issue. Many members of the club get QST and would probably loan you their copy.



ARE YOU A PACKRAT?

Some people just can't throw away anything! We are hoping you are one of them! We need some copies of past issues of Spark-Gap.

If you have a copy that is not checked below, contact NV9K.

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Jan						X
Feb		X				X
Mar			X			X
Apr		X			X	X
May					X	X
Jun		X	X		X	X
Jul					X	X
Aug		X	X		X	X
Sept			X		X	X
Oct	X	X	X		X	X
Nov					X	X
Dec		X			X	X

As you can see, we have no copies for the entire year of 1990! It would be nice to have a copy in our records of every copy that has been printed. Please ask around and maybe we can fill in all the blanks! Thanks! -NV9K

SCANNER BAN TIMETABLE

Changes in FCC rules regarding radio scanners capable of receiving cellular telephone transmissions will be implemented over the next year.

Effective with the adoption of the new FCC part 15 rules on April 26, 1993, the commission will not grant equipment authorization for receivers that do not comply with the new provisions. These new provisions DO NOT prohibit the sale or use of authorized receivers manufactured in the U. S. , or imported into the U. S. prior to April 26, 1994.

FCC GOES ELECTRONIC

The FCC on April 1 changed its rules to allow for the eventual "electronic" filing of license applications in the private radio sector. Currently all license applications must include a handwritten signature. Last October Congress amended the Communications Act of 1934 to allow electronic filing of applications, applications signed "in any manner or form, including by electronic means, as the Commission may prescribe by regulation.

Any changes to come will only be after the FCC has established procedures for electronic filing. For now amateurs, and all others, are still bound by the handwritten signature requirement.

We are getting closer to the eventual "instant license" at the test session! This is the first step toward that possibility.

MARK YOUR RADIO !

A Rosebowl security guard who is not a licensed amateur is out \$40. It seems he bought an Alinco dual-band handheld ham radio at a "floating" flea market in Los Angeles. Peter Fogg KA6RJF, works as a communications specialist for the Rose Bowl committee. He noticed the call sign KD6OEM engraved on the radio. The Los Angeles police department was called in to investigate and the radio was eventually returned to Alan Mark, its rightful owner. No charges were pressed against the surprised security gaurd. The lesson to be learned: Mark your radio!

FAKE PRODIGY BULLETIN

A female with a false Extra class call sign has been publicly posting a series of slanderous announcements saying the ARRL Insurance Policy was revoked for non-payment of claims. The League, according to the bogus posting, has "no plans to replace the defunct policy. Policy-holders may request a refund through the ARRL in Newington. Funds of fifty cents on the dollar are available if requests are received no later than

April 30, 1993." THE WHOLE THING IS A HOAX, but did get a big on-line response from the amateur community. One fellow even went as far as to agree with the posting and said he "...received a refund on my premium last wednesday."

If you have insurance with the ARRL you can rest assured that your policy is good and that there is adequate money to cover any and all claims!

NOW OVER 600,000 HAMS

The total number of hams in the U. S. has now increased to more than 600,000! The breakdown of classes show the most are now the new No-Code class with 201,670. The next highest area is the General, which used to be the largest class. There were 4,239 new licenses issued in March of 1993 alone!

NEW ARRL VEC POLICY

Effective July 1, 1993 it will be the policy of the ARRL/VEC that they will NOT impose a test fee for any candidate who takes Element 1A or Element 2. Also ARRL/VE's will NOT charge a person the test fee who takes Element 1A to upgrade from codeless Tech to Tech w/HF priveleges! ARRL VE's will continue to charge a test fee to candidates who take the higher examination elements, including Elements 1B, 1C, 3A, 3B, 4A, and 4B.

Since the operating expenses exceed the money collected through the test sessions, money from other ARRL sources are used for processing applications. In spite of this, the ARRL has decided to make the above changes and absorb the loss. It is not known at this time if other VEC's will be making these same concessions.

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BEN'S WEATHER TIPS

By Ben Woods Channel 8 TV

It won't be long before we have those lazy, hazy days of summer in Indiana. Often the summer heat can fuel some powerful thunderstorms. June can be a particularly active month for tornadoes. About one fourth of all tornadoes in Indiana occur in the month of June.

So far, we have experienced a relatively quiet severe weather season. Soon the National Weather Service in Indianapolis will have a new and powerful radar up and running. On June 3rd, the dome of the WSR-88D (otherwise known as Doppler Radar) was placed on top of the 112 foot structure. The radar site is only a couple miles from the current radar site at the Indianapolis Airport.

The Doppler radar has a distinct advantage over current radars because it can detect wind speed and circulation within thunderstorms. A change in frequency of the energy pulse returning to the radar infers whether precipitation is traveling toward or away from the radar antenna.

Detecting the swirling winds of a developing tornado will save lives because of an increase in the lead time of a tornado warning. Snowfall, which is poorly detected with present radars, shows up much better. Storm movement and storm tops will be easily determined and displayed.

A network of Doppler radars will be installed across the country at a cost of 3 million dollars each. The Indianapolis Doppler Radar will become operational in late August. Currently, it is planned to be the only advanced radar in the state of Indiana. There is the possibility of a Doppler site in Fort Wayne in the future.

MARC

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

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FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I would like to personally thank Tom Curran N9DZJ who repaired our repeater last month. Findings were two bad transistors in the receiver causing us to have a 1.75 microvolt sensitivity. After the repair it went up to .5 microvolt sensitivity. Also thanks to Dave WB9YIG for helping us with this project. Thanks to all members and non members for helping us with special events such as the equestrian event and the Masonic Home event.

I will have advanced tickets for the Indy Hamfest July 10th and 11th for \$6.00 which would be \$8.00 at the gate. These tickets will be available at the June 19th meeting.

Let's all please help KB9HSE with this year's Field Day. When they pass the sign-up sheets around please write down your time so we can get an idea of our coverage.

Our club will have a promotional table at the Indy Ham Fest in building 3 at the Marion County Fairgrounds. We will also have two adjoining tables for the use of club members who have items they would like to sell. We will also need volunteers to man the three tables. Plan to sign up for this also at the next meeting. We need to know that there is always someone on duty at the tables. I will have vehicle passes for entrance but everyone must have a ticket.
-N9IMP